

Amendment to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the pending title with the following new title:

METHODS FOR ISOLATING AND MAINTAINING CELLS USING GROWTH COLUMNS  
AND MICRODROPLET-ENCAPSULATION OF CELLS

Please replace the first paragraph, page 1, of the specification, which corresponds to paragraph of page 1, lines 6 to 16 (which is paragraph [0001] of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. **20050070005** ("the '005 publication")) with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] This application claims the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of U.S. Provisional Application Ser. No. 60/399,272, filed Jul. 26, 2002. This application is also a continuation-in-part application ("CIP") of U.S. patent applications Ser. No. ("U.S. Ser. No. ") 09/975,036, filed Oct. 10, 2001, ~~abandoned now pending~~, and this application is also a CIP of U.S. Ser. No. 10/145,281, filed May 13, 2002, ~~abandoned now pending~~, which is a divisional (DIV) of U.S. Ser. No. ~~09/685,432~~ ~~09/985,432~~, filed Oct. 10, 2000, ~~abandoned now pending~~, which is a CIP of U.S. Ser. No. 09/444,112, filed Nov. 22, 1999, issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,972,183, December 6, 2005, which is a CIP of U.S. Ser. No. 09/098,206, issued as U.S. Pat. No. 6,174,673, filed Jun. 16, 1998, which is a CIP of U.S. Ser. No. 08/876,276, filed Jun. 16, 1997, ~~abandoned now pending~~. Each of the aforementioned applications are explicitly incorporated herein by reference in their entirety and for all purposes.